

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 04761 171814Z

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 CAB-09 COME-00

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NEA-10 FEA-02

DRC-01 /073 W

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R 171612Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9608

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IN

SUBJ: CIVAIR - FUEL CHARGES IN INDIA

REF: STATE 74958

1. WE CHECKED WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRADE (HUDSON, UNDER SECRETARY) AND FCO (DODDS, MARINE AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT) CONCERNING FUEL CHARGES IN INDIA AND WERE TOLD THAT UKG HAD NOT AS YET BEEN ASKED BY BRITISH AIRWAYS TO MAKE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS TO GOI.

2. WE FOUND BRITISH OFFICIALS EITHER NOT VERY WELL INFORMED CONCERNING PROBLEM OR NOT VERY FORTHCOMING AS TO STATE OF PLAY IN ATTEMPTING TO GET PROBLEM RESOLVED, SO WE CALLED BRITISH AIRWAYS (OVERSEAS DIVISION) CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STANTON, AND FOUND HIM TO BE MORE HELPFUL. STANTON SAID BA HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO WORK PROBLEM OUT THROUGH GOOD OFFICES OF AIR INDIA. AI HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING SOME FUEL TAXES REDUCED BY ABOUT 27 PERCENT. STANTON SAID BA CONSIDERED THIS STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT IT NOT SUFFICIENT TO MEET BA'S REQUIREMENTS AND AIRLINE THEREFORE CONTINUING TO KEEP UP PRESSURE ON INDIAN

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PAGE 02 LONDON 04761 171814Z

AUTHORITIES BUT STILL CHANNELING EFFORTS THROUGH

AIR INDIA.

3. ACCORDING TO STANTON, PROBLEM COMPLICATED BY
FACT THAT DISPUTED FUEL TAXES HAVE BEEN LEVIED NOT
BY GOI BUT BY VARIOUS STATE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.
PROBLEM HAS NOT REACHED STAGE, HOWEVER, WHERE BA
PREPARED TO THREATEN SUSPENSION OF SERVICES.
STANTON SAID BA WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO COORDINATE
WITH TWA ON ACTIONS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN TO GAIN NECES-
SARY RELIEF FROM PROBLEM.
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